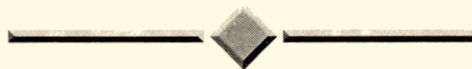




# CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 1996-97



CAMPUS MINISTRY IS A UNIT OF *Advocacy & Support Services* **STUDENT SERVICES**

# CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 1996-97

## **Introduction**

Many units of Concordia University are dealing with some difficult realities: smaller staff, students under stress, financial pressures, uncertainty about the future, to name a few. Campus Ministry is also affected by these realities, not only as they impact on our staffing and budget, but also because our ministry role includes reaching out to be helpful to all members of our community, and most especially students, who are struggling with many of these same issues. A problem into which we put much time, creativity and care, as well as many material resources, is student poverty. This year we strengthened and further developed some existing programs to provide food to hungry students. This issue will continue to concern us in the coming year, as a pastoral issue, and also as a question of justice. We intend to build on this year's work, in particular reflecting on the problem of student debt loads.

Another focus for our attention and energies has been the crucial and ongoing question of responding in our ministry to the rich diversity of religious affiliations, spiritualities, values and attitudes which is the make-up of our university. We have done some exciting work in this area, on which we also intend to build next year.

Both of these issues, of student poverty and multi-faith ministry, were recommended last year by the Student Services Review Team as an important focus of attention for Campus Ministry. These recommendations were in close line to our own already established directions, and we were very pleased to have this confirmation and support.

With some new and creative initiatives, this has been a busy and exciting year. It has also been a year of consolidation and maintenance as we continue many programs and services which are already well established. This was our first complete academic year since the staffing changes of January 1996, which we described in last year's report, and we believe the initial transition to have been successfully accomplished.

## **Goals**

Our goals for the 1996-97 year were:

- a) To evaluate our current programs and services in light of our reformulated mission statement and goals, and develop any areas as needed;

- b) To build a multi-faith network of ministers and religious educators for collaboration and referral;
- c) To develop programs and services to help students overcome obstacles to completing their studies;
- d) To continue to work on maximizing the use of both campuses.

## **Resources**

### **Staff**

Last year there were some changes in personnel, with Robert Nagy retiring after more than twenty-five years in Concordia Campus Ministry. This has diminished our staffing, as the full-time position has been cut to half-time; this position is being very capably filled by David Eley SJ. We have established new ways of operating with less staffing, which, of course is never easy. One of the biggest challenges has been to maintain the accessibility of chaplains to students dropping into our centres. Providing comfortable, welcoming centres on both campuses, with staff available as much as possible, is an important service which we offer to help to humanize the university environment. By coordinating our activities and keeping the secretary well-informed of our schedules, we have been quite successful at maintaining and even improving our level of accessibility.

Since Bob Nagy's retirement, the role of coordinator has become a term appointment, chosen among the chaplains. Matti Terho completed his term on May 31, 1997, and Daryl Lynn Ross is currently taking on this role. Concordia can be proud that we are, to our knowledge, the first university in Canada where a lay woman has taken on such a leadership role in a team of lay and ordained chaplains. Peter Côté, along with Daryl and Matti, continue in full-time chaplaincy. All chaplains take appointments and have programs on both campuses.

Support staff are essential for maintaining student-friendly spaces as well as for publicizing and carrying out programs and services. Bernard Glover, as full-time secretary, has responsibilities including document production and processing, communications, desktop publishing, media interface and computer maintenance. Magda Jass, the Chapel Sacristan is involved in overseeing the use of the Loyola Chapel for regular Campus Ministry services as well as for use by other persons and groups.

Financed by the Pillars Trust Fund of the Archdiocese of Montreal, Michelina Bertone (SSA) works in Campus Ministry on a part-time basis. As a licensed counsellor she is an



excellent resource, and also facilitates a number of programs and workshops, as described below.

### **Campus Ministry Physical Resources**

Campus Ministry is housed in two offices: at Loyola, Belmore House (Annex WF), 2496 West Broadway; at Sir George Williams (Annex Z), 2090 Mackay. Each of these offices has office space for Chaplains, as well as one or more spaces where groups can gather. In addition, Campus Ministry utilizes and manages the Loyola Chapel.

**Annex Z - Sir George Williams Campus:** This is a heavily used office space, for appointments, drop-ins, programs and special events. As we have no support staff downtown, if a Chaplain is involved in work out of the office, or in speaking with a student in an office, it has been sometimes difficult to deal with unscheduled visits from students. There are a considerable number of drop-ins, and therefore we have made efforts to solve this problem. More careful coordination of schedules, the scheduling of all full-time Chaplains for office hours at Annex Z, the prioritizing of providing drop-in service, the posting of office hours and the presence of Peer Helpers in the lower level office have all been aimed at addressing this concern.

The gathering space in the lounge at Annex Z, although not very large, can comfortably seat about twenty people. Behind this lounge is another room, with a sink, refrigerator, cabinets and a large round table and chairs. Having this space available, which many students have said is one of the few "homey" feeling places on campus, has enabled Campus Ministry to offer a wide variety of programs. It is an excellent space to offer small group discussions and workshops. Small groups are optimum learning environments, especially for human development learning, as they provide close contact with the leader as well as exchange with peers. Annex Z is one of a small number of places on the downtown campus which has space amenable to such groups. We have quite a few requests from other services and from student associations to make use of this space, and we try to accommodate these requests as much as we can. The lounges were the venue for a very popular gathering called Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, which offered weekly dinners for a small donation. The tables, sink, cupboards and kitchen-type set-up made this program possible.

We are very pleased that renovations which had been postponed for several years due to university budgetary constraints could finally be carried out. This has provided an additional office space for a chaplain on the main floor, to facilitate better staffing of this office. Better washing facilities for the ritual foot washing before prayer for the Muslim students has taken pressure off the regular washrooms in the building. Adding a door to a



multi-purpose room has made that space more convenient for use by Peer Helpers for private conversations with students during Peer Helper Centre office hours, and for use by other groups in the evenings and on Fridays. We continue to provide space at Annex Z for the Muslim Students' Association to have a prayer room. They find themselves in need of more space than we can provide, and have repeatedly asked for ownership of additional rooms, which we will allow them to book for events but which we have also designated for other uses. We have been in conversation with the Dean of Students Office to try to support them in their search for other solutions to this problem.

**Belmore House (Annex WF) - Loyola Campus:** This Annex is the primary work centre for Campus Ministry, because the secretary's office is located here, as well as offices for three of the four Concordia Chaplains. The Annex has office spaces and a small meeting room on the first floor, and a large lounge including a complete kitchen in the basement.

The Loyola Campus Ministry office has provided an excellent venue for training and ongoing general meetings of the Peer Helper Program. This group of twenty-six students meets for over forty-five hours of initial training at the end of the summer and the beginning of the fall semester, and continues with bi-weekly meetings throughout the regular academic year. The Peer Helpers also use the space for meal preparations for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard dinners, to help enforce strict sanitation standards during food preparation. There is a possibility that the Mother Hubbard's Cupboard meals will be served on the Loyola Campus as well.

The Loyola Campus provides an excellent venue for the meals which the Loyola Chapel community hosts for International students twice each year, as well as regular gatherings of the Loyola Chapel community, meetings of the Concordia Christian Fellowship and other student associations, pot-luck suppers, regular meditation, weekly and occasional small group meetings and other events.

We have a considerable number of drop-ins on this campus as well, and when the lounge is not being used for a program, there are frequently students who like to use it as a quiet and comfortable place to study. We have been told by students that the Campus Ministry office on Loyola, as well, is one of the few "homey" feeling spaces on that campus.

Over the past number of years the concentration of students has moved increasingly to the Sir George Williams campus. This has made organizing group programs very difficult at the Loyola Campus. We are aware that there are discussions within the university concerning re-configuring the division of departments between the two campuses, and we look forward to participating in this discussion. We would welcome increased usage and

revitalization of the Loyola Campus. We strongly feel that until such changes are made, it would be premature to consolidate Campus Ministry on one or another campus.

**The Loyola Chapel:** The Loyola Campus Ministry office also provides supervision and coordination of the use of the Loyola Chapel. The Chapel is the gathering place for a vibrant Chapel Community and is a place of many celebrations and ceremonies which mark significant passages in the life of members of Concordia and of the community as a whole. It is a focal point for alumni, who frequently return to the Loyola Chapel for Sunday masses or are even part of the regular Chapel community, and also return to the Chapel for weddings, anniversaries, funerals and baptisms. The Loyola Chapel is a significant place for Concordia University as an entire community; at a time when so many of our long-term faculty and staff are taking retirement or early retirement packages and are leaving active involvement in university life, and it feels as if we are losing the holders of our “institutional memory” it is important to safeguard the meaningful traditions and places which remain.

In addition to being a place which holds many memories for university members, the Chapel is an oasis on campus for quiet, contemplation and stillness. Very frequently, when one of the Chaplains or the Sacristan go into the Chapel, there are one or more people just sitting quietly in this peaceful, sacred space. The Chapel is accessible through the administration building at all times. It is locked after 11:00 p.m., but will be opened by a security guard upon request.

As with many of the Loyola buildings, there is some maintenance work which is badly needed. A report detailing needed repairs was submitted to Physical Resources several years ago, and as we are aware of the limited financial resources of the university, we press only for the most urgent work to be done.

## **Programs, Services and Events**

It is largely through the variety of offerings outlined below that we reach out to the members of the Concordia University Community to educate, foster personal and spiritual growth, create community, offer support and guidance through life's transitions and provide opportunities to lend a compassionate hand to the needy. We put considerable creativity and loving energy into these programs, services and events, and we believe they are responsive to the expressed needs of students, and other Concordia members.

This has been a busy and exciting year. A number of new and creative initiatives have been produced, as well as continuing with traditional and well established programs. Efforts have continued to be directed to the concerns expressed in the Students Services



Review Taskforce Report. Two areas on which we have focussed particular attention have been student poverty and multi-faith activities.

### **Workshops and Small groups**

**Prison Visit Program:** This long-standing outreach program continues to be very popular and beneficial to the student participants. It is one which we consciously maintain at a maximum attendance of 10 to 12 student volunteers each semester. For the 96-97 school year we have continued at Archambault Federal Maximum Security Institution in cooperation with the Prison Chaplain, David Schantz. Each year this program has a powerful, indeed life-changing impact on some of the students. Students come from all four of the faculties, but representation from within the so-called "helping profession" departments is the strongest, i.e. Sociology, Psychology, and APSS. For these students in particular it becomes an important part of their educational experience, as they make choices about their direction in life.

**Book Reading Group:** A series of eight sessions was directed by David Eley for a small group of ten participants who discussed a text by James Alison, Raising Abel. The meetings were highly animated and judged to be very satisfying example of learning development.

**Meditation:** Two groups were held regularly by Daryl Ross, the group at Annex Z continuing for its fourth year, the group at Annex WF for a second. Both were held during the week, in the daytime. The SGW group fluctuated from about eight to twenty participants, the group at Loyola was consistently about four or five. A number of participants gave feedback that learning meditation has been very helpful in many aspects of their academic and personal lives.

**Outreach Experience (Volunteer/Discernment Program):** This program, now in its third year, is coordinated by Michelina Bertone, SSA. Students seeking to do volunteer work in the community are matched with organizations needing the skills and energies these students bring. Every effort is made to find a placement which will be suitable to the student in terms of his/her interests and availability. The placements this past year were in the following organizations: Toit de Bethléem (food distribution to poor families, picnic day), Benedict Labre House, Dans La Rue, Royal Vie (palliative care), AIDS Centre, Catholic Community Services, Friendly House (women's shelter), Chez Doris, Shriners, Entreaide Benevole Metro Inc.(elderly), Parenthese (psychiatric patients) Head and Hands, Tyndale St. George Community Centre, Elizabeth House (young mothers and babies). Follow-up meetings are scheduled between the coordinator and the student following a set number of weeks of

volunteer work. Links are made during these meetings with the student's career goals, and also with his/her ethical and spiritual life. The students meet as a group twice a year to share their experiences with one another and engage in shared ritual (prayer). About forty students have participated each year.

**A Healing Journey through the Eight Stages of Life of Erik Erikson:** In these workshops the work of Erikson in stages of human and spiritual development was explored by a group of about ten students, making applications to their own personal, moral and spiritual lives.

**Focusing Workshops:** This series of workshops, facilitated by Michelina Bertone SSA, taught the approximately fifteen participants how to "listen" to their bodies. Focusing is a particular technique which helps the practitioner to work through issues which may be hindering his/her relationships or personal development. It also enables one to stay more self-attuned. It is a spiritual practice which does not have a particular doctrine, other than the essential one of valuing and caring for oneself.

## **Events**

**The Spirit of Christmas Drive / Emergency Food Voucher Program:** The annual drive funds our Emergency Food Voucher Program which, along with Mother Hubbard's Cupboard weekly dinners are direct responses to the urgent problem of student poverty in our community, and are our most visible projects addressing this issue. Peter Côté coordinates the annual fundraising event. Because of the prominence and visibility of this fund raising drive we have been able to raise this issue within the University community to a very high degree over the years. It is through this program that many Concordians have become involved in beginning to respond to the poverty within our student body. (Please see the separate 1996-97 Spirit of Christmas Report in the Appendix.)

**The Spirit Has Many Voices: A Multi-Faith Festival:** This week-long event was a major effort of Campus Ministry this year to develop the multi-faith aspect of our ministry. The highlight of the event was a colourful and inviting "marketplace of faith traditions" on the mezzanine of the Hall Building. There were workshops, panel discussions and demonstrations in areas nearby throughout the day. The event promoted dialogue and collaboration among the many faith communities which participated, and hundreds of students spent time looking at written and visual materials. Many also spent time at the "Express Yourself" booth, which explored the connections between art and spirituality, and gave the opportunity for some hands on experience. In addition, a lecture series throughout the week and a film series presented by the Conservatory of Cinematographic Art enriched



this major event. Presenters and attendees alike warmly urged Campus Ministry to repeat this event next year.

**The Eric O'Connor Event** took place once again this year. It was a panel presentation by three visitors from Quebec City, Sherbrooke, and here from Montreal to a public of about 100 people. This year's topic was "Synod," a pertinent focus since the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal is in the midst of a three year synod on the future of the Catholic Church in Montreal. Each year these have been well attended and well appreciated events. Another one is in planning for the coming semester.

**Retreat at Oka Monastery** As in other years, a group of about twenty-five Concordia students, faculty, staff and Chpel members spent a weekend at the Trappist Monastery in Oka, Quebec. Orientation sessions, conferences, experiential prayer and particularly joining with the monks in their "Prayers of the Hours" form the program of the weekend. We did not have a winter retreat this past year, but plan to renew its format in the coming year.

## **Services**

**Mother Hubbard's Cupboard:** This program, coordinated by Daryl Ross with the Peer Helpers, serves weekly meals to students at Annex Z for a donation of \$1.00. Costs were subsidized by the Spirit of Christmas Fund. The meals were prepared at the Loyola Campus Ministry office, supervised and transported by Daryl Ross. About fifty to sixty-five students were served each week, from mid-September to late April, with the attendance peaking one week at over ninety. The meals were vegetarian, and inexpensive to prepare. Students were given copies of the recipes, so they could learn new skills in preparing nutritious meals on a small budget. The atmosphere at "Mother Hubbard's" was warm and friendly; many of the students who came were from out of province or from other countries, and came to meet people as well as enjoy a meal. The feedback from students who participated was extremely positive, and many came because of word-of-mouth publicity; that is a sure sign that a programme is responding to the real needs of students. We plan to continue and expand this program next year by forming cooperative cooking workshops, where students learn to plan, buy and cook a dish, then share a meal together, and bring home sufficient quantities for one or two more meals. This was planned for this past year, but because the program expanded so quickly, we were unable to work on further developments.

**Celebration & Worship:** Chaplains were involved in preparing for and presiding at ceremonies such as convocations, weddings, anniversaries, funeral/memorial services. Most still seem to turn to religious leaders when they are looking for meaningful ways to celebrate various passages in life. Sacramental celebrations such as weddings and baptisms

necessarily involve one of the ordained chaplains. Other gatherings such as memorial services are also led by the lay chaplains.

**Chapel Liturgies:** The Loyola Chapel continues to be used for a variety of religious ceremonies and prayers. There is a regular series of weekday and Sunday Catholic services, marked by creativity and innovation. There are a good number of services from diverse denominations on an ad-hoc basis. Many weddings of members of the Concordia community, and alumni are celebrated there as well as a number of memorial services for the dead. The chapel is also used for group meditation, and for a number of meetings, public lectures, recitals and concerts. The chapel is principally of religious significance for the Concordia community but is also used from time to time for other University occasions. The chapel is used 52 Sundays of the year by, on average, 100 people, and during the week, two to five days a week for 46 weeks of the year by about 15-20 people, which is about 8420 people-uses for the regular activities. Throughout the year the number of people at the occasional activities would be larger, 200 - 300 at a wedding or a memorial service.

**Pastoral Counselling:** Uncertainty and change are hallmarks of university life today and add to the stresses already felt by students, faculty and staff throughout the University. Short-term pastoral counselling and spiritual direction offered by chaplains have helped many students to respond to life choices and emotional issues constructively and with integrity. The chaplains provide spiritual guidance and development to other members of the University community as well. Chaplains also provide links to other university services.

**Marriage Preparation:** One of the happier duties of the ordained chaplains is the preparation of couples for their marriage. Couples that present themselves for marriage are welcomed to series of meetings to assist them to prepare for their life together and the celebration in the wedding liturgy. A significant formation is offered at this important juncture in their lives. Preparation of the couples for their marriages requires significant time on the part of Campus Ministry's two ordained chaplains. The process involves as many as ten visits, not including the rehearsal and actual ceremony. The preparation does not always lead to a wedding. The process of preparing for marriage sometimes brings a couple to the realization that their wedding should be postponed until certain issues are addressed; occasionally the wedding is even cancelled altogether. Only two weddings booked in the Loyola Chapel during the 1996-97 year were cancelled. Twenty weddings were celebrated in the Loyola Chapel this year and several more were held at various locations off campus. With few exceptions, all marriages witnessed by Concordia Chaplains involve members of the Concordia University Community.



**Campus Ministry Involvement in Orientation:** Chaplains presided at the beginning of each Orientation main session with greetings and a ritual opening. This served to give us a certain amount of exposure to every student attending Orientation, not just a small group in a workshop. It is somewhat similar in nature to our role at Convocation and so highlights that important ceremonial aspect of our work. Over the four days of Orientation approximately 2000 students would have seen and heard us.

**Chaplains and Convocation:** A tradition which dates back to the very beginning of Concordia University, and, further into the histories of its founding institutions, is the role Campus Ministry plays in the central ritual event of the University, i.e. Convocation. Our role is, as well, a ritualistic one. We bless each event at the beginning with an Invocation, and at the end with a Benediction. We are careful in our prayer to be inclusive and respectful of the variety of religious beliefs present at Concordia. Our presence at Convocation in this capacity is very important to us. We believe in the importance and rightness of this spiritual dimension being included at this very important point in the life of the University. We know that many students appreciate it, and are grateful for the words of thanksgiving to their Creator and the blessings bestowed on them. The framing of Convocation in this way adds a special touch for many. In terms of our visibility and stature as a department which is integral to the University the role we play in the Convocation ceremonies cannot be underestimated. It is one we cherish and want to affirm.

**Convocation Mass:** In addition to the above role, another equally ancient tradition is that of the Convocation Mass held at the Loyola Chapel. This is part of the original Roman Catholic tradition of Loyola College and is today cherished by many at the University. It certainly does not answer the needs of everyone at this institution, but each year many students and faculty find it fitting to celebrate the end of the academic year and Convocation in this way. Convocation Mass 1997 was co-presided at and homily given by Fr. Emmett Johns, Director of "Dans La Rue," and recipient of an honorary doctorate from Concordia this year. About 35 students and their families attended, along with several faculty members. Total attendance was about 175.

**Chapel Council:** There is an elected council which takes responsibility for the activities of the Loyola Chapel Community. Three of the chaplains and the sacristan as ex-officio, and now also the secretary as an elected member, are part of this ten to twelve member group. The council organizes a number of activities for the University such as an International Students Brunch, as a welcome to International Students. A series of regular meetings is held for these purposes. The council also sponsored a student for a five week

“third world introduction programme” in the Philippines. This student will offer a number of workshops in the fall related to his experiences.

**Funerals and Memorial Services:** During the 1996-97 school year there were a total of thirteen student deaths. In most cases the connection to the University was marginal. In four cases a memorial service was organized with Matti Terho, the Coordinator for University’s Response to Student Death, playing a leading role in the planning, and participating in or conducting the service.

As well, throughout the year Matti Terho participated in or presided over another dozen or so funeral services for faculty, staff, alumni or a members of their families. David Eley, S.J. also presided or co-presided over the funeral services of former faculty members and alumni. It should be noted that this pastoral support is a most important and needed service for the grieving individuals.

## **The Peer Helper Program**

The Peer Helper Program continued this year coordinated by Daryl Ross, under the supervision of Ann Kerby, It was a year of steady development with some changes and highlights. Renovations carried out on Annex Z affected the Peer Helper Centre, and the office had to be closed for three weeks during a peak activity time. The changes in the space have resulted in a more usable downstairs area. A real highlight was the popularity of the “Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard” dinners. These served real needs of providing support for cash-strapped students as well as a place for finding a sense of community.

This is a briefer summary than usual of Peer Helper activities for the past year. The 1998 report will include a more detailed summary of 1996 97. Plans for 1997-98 include expansion of Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard activities to include more responses to the problem of student poverty.

## **Other Activities**

**Professional Development:** Campus Ministry works within a professional environment, within standards set by the National Association, which groups Campus Ministers from all Canadian Universities by the National Offices of the Churches and inter-church and inter-faith committees, as well as being in close connection with our counterparts in the United States. Further there are a series of Professional organizations with their conventions and regular publications. Concordia chaplains attend some of these meetings every year and make a regular and on-going part of their study and reflection the



integration of the latest concerns, findings and practices into the work of Campus Ministry at Concordia University. Some of the time of our planning days and regular weekly meetings are dedicated to this learning and professional updating.

Throughout the year on a regular basis the whole Campus Ministry staff gathers for full day or half day **team meetings**. These times are used for a variety of forms of development. Some of the time is spent on evaluation and subsequent planning of activities. Time is also spent on a number of professional issues including the generating of a Mission Statement, declaring objectives and creating a mechanism for determining priorities. This is a necessary part of our work when we can deal with issues and cases that are brought to our attention through various avenues, including the National Association, some of our Church affiliations, and community organizations.

**Diocesan Synod:** This year past is the second year of a three process of "Synod" for the Archdiocese of Montreal. Concordia has been very present to this important planning and revising activity. There have been a number of ongoing small groups preparing positions on a wide range of topics. There have also been a series of public talks and public discussions on related topics. The University community is looked to in some areas to make a significant contribution.

## **Community Involvements, Professional Development and Conferences**

**Micheline Bertone SSA:** Diocesan Youth Council; the Montreal Association for Vocation Awareness; the Synod Spiritual Life Committee; and Relais Mont Royal. Also sits on a committee for the animation of parish prayer groups. Resident worker at Le Toit de Bethlehem; Pastoral Counsellor at the Montreal Pastoral Institute.

**Peter Côté:** President of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Executive Committee Catholic Community Services of Montreal; First Responder; CUPEU Council member; attended National Catholic Chaplains' Conference.

**David Eley, S.J.:** Director and board member of the Loyola Peace Institute; member of Board of Directors, Adult Education, Archdiocese of Montreal; part-time faculty, Concordia University, Lonergan University College "Introduction to Peace Studies" (six credits) and Department of Theological Studies "Theology in Film" (three credits); director of Ph.D. student; member, academic reading group; part-time professor, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome; attended National Catholic Chaplains' Conference.

**Daryl Ross:** General Vice-President CUPEU Executive; member of the Concordia Inter-Union Council; member of "Creative Connections" an association of community and anti-poverty organizations for mutual support; founding member of the N.D.G. Ecumenical Coalition for Justice; attended National Catholic Chaplain's Conference and Call To Action Conference.

**Matti Terho:** Vice-Chair of the Montreal Christian-Jewish Dialogue, Lutheran Council in Montreal, Secretary, Lutheran Ministerium, Finnish Lutheran Church, Eastern Regional Chaplains Conference, Chaplain to the Côte St. Luc chapter of the Montreal Area War Veterans, Vice-chair of the Canadian Sauna Society. Sat on several in-house committees such as the Rector's Centraide Committee.

## **Conclusion**

We find ourselves, as an entire University community, in a time of change, which involves primarily loss and restraint. At such a time it is essential that we affirm, in many ways, to ourselves as well as those who regard us from outside, what are our most cherished values. The innate worth of each person, learning which is rooted in a sense of wonder at the mystery and beauty of this world, openness to the diversity of human experience and expression, support for the weaker or more vulnerable members, are all values out of which Concordia University has grown. Campus Ministry will continue to creatively respond to the spiritual and practical needs of community members, and add our vision and voice to those who seek to build Concordia on the best of what it has come from and has become. Within that future, we believe, faith, spirituality and ethical and moral development have an essential role. We believe that we have thoughtfully set our goals with these values and the real needs of students in mind, and that our annual goals have been substantially met during this past year. We look forward to this coming year with hope, determination and enthusiasm.



## APPENDIX A

# THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS DRIVE AND THE EMERGENCY FOOD VOUCHER PROGRAMME

The Spirit of Christmas Drive and the Emergency Food Voucher Programme have experienced significant growth during 1996 and through to the end of the 1996-97 fiscal year. Income was up by several thousand dollars, although the largest source of this increase was not from general donations received during the Spirit of Christmas period. Disbursements in the form of food vouchers was also up significantly, particularly during the 96-97 school year. And the fund continues to provide seed money to *Mother Hubbard's Cupboard*.

The most significant source of additional revenue during the reporting period was a \$4,500. grant from the Affinity MasterCard programme. A second, and very promising, source of new revenue has come from corporate and private donations from members of Concordia's Board of Directors. This came about due to an appeal Rector Lowy made to the Board on behalf of The Spirit of Christmas Fund. We also received very generous donations from the Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association and the Concordia University Professional Employees Union. The staff at Marketing Communications organized a very successful raffle, and the jazz students in the Music department, under the direction of Andrew Homzy, put on a wonderful benefit concert called Spirit of a Jazzy Christmas. The Concordia Holiday Tree again this year served as a constant reminder during the season of the presence of the Drive and the issue of student poverty as passersby were invited to put ribbons on the tree and make donations. A number of other departments made group donations or took up collections at Christmas season parties. Finally, we received a \$3,000. donation from a source which wished to remain anonymous. **Total revenue for the period was \$17,554.31.** (Calender year 1995: \$10,977.)

During 1996 demand for food vouchers experienced a significant increase and has remained high through the winter and spring of 1997, **Our department distributed \$13,210. to needy students during the 96-97 period.** (Calender year 1995: \$8,500.) As well, \$350. was used to support the Mother Hubbard's Cupboard program. This is actually a very small amount and indicates that MHC is largely self-financing.

Both these programs have attained a high level of visibility within our community and the community-at-large. This visibility, and the continuing desperate financial plight of so many students, results in higher usage statistics for the program: **365 student visits during 96-97.** (Calender year 1995: 266) It also provides us with the opportunity to continue to raise the issue of student poverty within the University community. This is important in and of itself, but it is also true that the success of our fundraising depends on this awareness. It is useful to note in this regard that had we not received the extraordinary gifts detailed above we would not have been able to meet the current demand. As it is the fund is in excellent shape as we move into the 97-98 academic year, however the significant challenge we face is to maintain and build on the support we received in the past year.

## Table of Disbursements

	MONTH	NO. OF VISITS	AMOUNT DISBURSED
1996	June	12	530.00
	July	12	575.00
	August	12	540.00
	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1,155.00</b>
	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1,330.00</b>
	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,320.00</b>
	<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1,105.00</b>
1997	<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>970.00</b>
	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>895.00</b>
	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1,840.00</b>
	<b>APRIL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1,795.00</b>
	MAY	26	1,065.00

Average Disbursement per visit \$36.19

Total Food Voucher Disbursements \$13,210.00

Total Support for *Mother Hubbard's Cupboard* 350.00

Total Income for 1996-97 17,554.31



## Total Monthly Disbursements for 1996-97

